buy-back, third party sale of renewable energy systems/ devices to increase private sector's participation. Public awareness exercise for use of various non-conventional energy systems/devices have also been taken up through electronic, print and postal media and exhibitions. These efforts have created mass awareness about the use of various renewable energy devices by the common people for meeting various energy requirements. The above strategy adopted would be continued with suitable modifications where necessary during the 10th plan period for popularizing non-conventional energy sources in the country.

Alternative fuels for surface transport

4456. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is implementing a broad-based programme on alternative fuels for surface transport;

(b) if so, the details of such programme;

(c) whether the Ministry of thinking of deploying electric vehicles in large numbers, especially in Urban areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a broad-based programme on alternative Fuel for Surface Transportation, which includes supports for demonstration programme on battery operated vehicles. Under this programme, central subsidy is provided through State and Union Territory Government Agencies/Developments for the purchase of battery operated vehicles (ten-seater and higher capacity passenger vehicles). The Ministry is funding a pilot project for demonstration of 300 battery-operated three-wheelers in various cities. The Ministry is also implementing research, development and demonstration projects on battery-operated vehicles through various research institutions and the industry.